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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/726,212	12/01/2003	Ming-Che Wu	PUSA031109 (15749/457)	3304
7590 08/11/2005				
ALAN D. KAMRATH NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, PA 820 INTERNATIONAL CENTRE 900 SECOND AVENUE, SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3325		EXAMINER SMITH, TIMOTHY SCOTT		
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3632		
DATE MAILED: 08/11/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/726,212

Applicant(s)

WU, MING-CHE

Examiner

Timothy S. Smith

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action represents a non-final first Office Action for the application titled "SUPPORT STAND," filed December 1, 2003.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: "The support stand in accordance with claim 6," should be changed to –The support stand in accordance with claim 5–. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

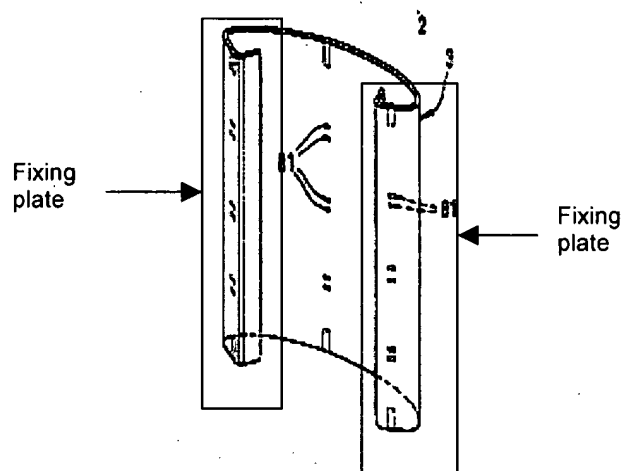
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isinger (U.S. Patent No. 6,470,811) in view of Wilbert (U.S. Patent No. 5,353,716).

Isinger discloses a stand, comprising: a folding board (3) having a surface formed with a plurality of arc-shaped plates (30); an upper cover (2) mounted on an upper end of the folding board (3) and having a bottom formed with an insert (10) inserted into the upper end of the folding board; and a lower cover (1) mounted on a lower end of the folding board and having a top formed with an insert (10) inserted into the lower end of the folding board (see figures 2 and 3, and column 2, lines 12-14 and

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16-24); a folding board (3) that is made of an elongated bendable material (column 2, lines 20-24); a folding board (3) that has an oblong shape when being folded (column 3, lines 58-61); a folding board (3) that has a circular shape when being folded (column 3, lines 58-61); a folding board (3) that has two sides each formed with a fixing plate formed with a plurality of through holes (see figure below); and a surface of a folding board (3) being formed with a plurality of upright plates (35).



In regards to claim 6, Isinger discloses a folding board (3) that has two sides each formed with a fixing plate (see figure above) having a plurality of through holes (81), but does not disclose the fixing plates juxtaposed to each other, and a plurality of fastening bolts each extending through the respective through holes of the juxtaposed fixing plates, and a plurality of fastening nuts each screwed on a respective one of the fastening bolts, so that the juxtaposed fixing plates of the folding board are combined with each other to form the closed folding board. Although Isinger does not disclose the fixing plates juxtaposed to each other, and a plurality of fastening bolts each extending

through the respective through holes of the juxtaposed fixing plates, and a plurality of fastening nuts each screwed on a respective one of the fastening bolts, so that the juxtaposed fixing plates of the folding board are combined with each other to form the closed folding board, it would have been an obvious design consideration to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have juxtaposed the fixing plates to each other using a plurality of fastening bolts each extending through the respective through holes of the juxtaposed fixing plates, and a plurality of fastening nuts each screwed on a respective one of the fastening bolts in order to provide a more rigid and stable structure.

In regards to claim 7, Isinger discloses a folding board that has arc-shaped plates (30), an upper cover (2) having touch-and-close strips (20) fastened on the upper cover (2) by nails (12), and mating fastening surfaces (21) on the folding board (3) which interact with the touch-and-close strips (20) to form touch-and-close interconnections between the upper cover (2) and the folding board (3) (see figures 4 and 5), but does not disclose the arc-shaped plates having an upper end formed with a plurality of screw bores, an upper cover having a periphery formed with a plurality of through holes, and a plurality of locking screws each extending through a respective one of the through holes of the upper cover and each screwed into a respective one of the screw bores of the respective arc-shaped plate of the folding board, so that the upper cover is secured on the upper end of the folding board. Although Isinger does not disclose the arc-shaped plates having an upper end formed with a plurality of screw bores, an upper cover having a periphery formed with a plurality of through holes, and a plurality of locking

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screws each extending through a respective one of the through holes of the upper cover and each screwed into a respective one of the screw bores of the respective arc-shaped plate of the folding board, so that the upper cover is secured on the upper end of the folding board, attention is directed the Wilbert reference. Wilbert teaches a base (2) having a plurality of screw bores (12,13), an upper cover (3) having a periphery formed with a plurality of through holes (12,13), and a plurality of locking screws (10,11) each extending through a respective one of the through holes (12,13) of the upper cover (3) and each screwed into a respective one of the screw bores (12,13) of the of the base (2), so that the upper cover (3) is secured on the upper end of the base (2). In view of Wilbert, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Isinger by substituting the touch and close interconnections between the upper cover and the folding board with a plurality of screw bores extending through the arc-shaped plates, an upper cover having a periphery formed with a plurality of through holes, and a plurality of locking screws each extending through a respective one of the through holes of the upper cover and each screwed into a respective one of the screw bores of the respective arc-shaped plate of the folding board wherein doing so would provide a more rigid and stable structure.

In regards to claim 8, Isinger discloses a folding board (3) that has arc-shaped plates (30), a lower cover (1) having touch-and-close strips (20) fastened on the lower cover (1) by nails (12), and mating fastening surfaces (21) on the folding board (3) which interact with the touch-and-close strips (20) to form touch-and-close interconnections between the lower cover (1) and the folding board (3) (see figures 4

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and 5), but does not disclose the arc-shaped plates having a lower end formed with a plurality of screw bores, a lower cover having a periphery formed with a plurality of through holes, and a plurality of locking screws each extending through a respective one of the through holes of the lower cover and each screwed into a respective one of the screw bores of the respective arc-shaped plate of the folding board, so that the lower cover is secured on the lower end of the folding board. Although Isinger does not disclose arc-shaped plates having a lower end formed with a plurality of screw bores, a lower cover having a periphery formed with a plurality of through holes, and a plurality of locking screws each extending through a respective one of the through holes of the lower cover and each screwed into a respective one of the screw bores of the respective arc-shaped plate of the folding board, so that the lower cover is secured on the lower end of the folding board, attention is directed to the Wilbert reference. In light of the remarks addressed above for claim 7, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Isinger by substituting the touch and close interconnections between the lower cover and the folding board with a plurality of screw bores extending through the arc-shaped plates, a lower cover having a periphery formed with a plurality of through holes, and a plurality of locking screws each extending through a respective one of the through holes of the lower cover and each screwed into a respective one of the screw bores of the respective arc-shaped plate of the folding board wherein doing so would provide a more rigid and stable structure.

In regards to claims 10 and 11, Isinger discloses a folding board that has arc-shaped plates (30), an upper cover (2) and lower cover (1) having touch-and-close strips (20) fastened on the upper cover (2) and lower cover (1) by nails (12), and mating fastening surfaces (21) on the folding board (3) which interact with the touch-and-close strips (20) to form touch-and-close interconnections between the covers and the folding board (3) (see figures 4 and 5), but does not disclose upright plates having upper and lower ends formed with a plurality of screw bores, an upper and lower cover having a periphery formed with a plurality of through holes, and a plurality of locking screws each extending through a respective one of the through holes of the upper and lower covers and each screwed into a respective one of the screw bores of the respective upright plate. Although Isinger does not disclose upright plates having upper and lower ends formed with a plurality of screw bores, an upper and lower cover having a periphery formed with a plurality of through holes, and a plurality of locking screws each extending through a respective one of the through holes of the upper and lower covers and each screwed into a respective one of the screw bores of the respective upright plate, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Isinger by substituting the touch-and-close interconnections between the covers and the folding board with a plurality of screw bores extending through the arc-shaped plates and the upper and lower covers, and a plurality of locking screws each extending through a respective one of the through holes of the upper and lower covers and each screwed into a respective one of the screw bores of the

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respective upright plates since screws and screw bores are a well known alternative, equivalent means for securing two parts to one another.

4. Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isinger in view of Recknagel et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No 2001/0018882).

In regards to claim 12, Isinger discloses a stand as applied above, but does not disclose an upper cover of a support stand having four corners each formed with a bore, and a plurality of locking screws each extended through the respective bore of the upper cover and each screwed into a bottom of a playing table, so that the upper cover of the support stand is secured on the bottom of the playing table. Recknagel et al. teaches a stand (44) having an upper cover (45) secured to the stand, said upper cover has four corners each formed with a bore (46), and a plurality of locking screws (47) each extending through the respective bore of the upper cover (45) and each screwed into a bottom of a table (40), so that the upper cover (45) of the stand (44) is secured on the bottom of the table (40). In view of Recknagel et al. it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the stand of Isinger with an upper cover having four corners each formed with a bore, and a plurality of locking screws each extending through the respective bore of the upper cover and each screwed into a bottom of a table wherein doing so would allow objects to be attached to the upper cover and supported by the upper cover.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,361,875 to Frederick, 3,724,399 to Notko, 4,078,502 to Barna, and 4,333,622 to Albano disclose support structures comprised of folding boards and upper covers attached to the folding boards.


U.S. Pat. No. Des. 306,107 to Grosfillex discloses a design for a table.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-8296. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on 571-272-6788. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

TSS

Timothy S. Smith
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3632
August 4, 2005


RAMON O. RAMIREZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER